2027 Academic Clinical Fellowship in Otolaryngology

Description of ACF Programme:
Title: Otolaryngology Duration: 3 years
Lead NHS Hospital/Trust and contact details:
University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust Tremona Road Southampton SO16 6YD 02380 777222
Research Institution in which training will take place:
University of Southampton Academic Unit of Clinical and Experimental Sciences, Mailpoint 810, Sir Henry Wellcome Laboratories, Faculty of Medicine, University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, Tremona Road, Southampton SO16 6YD
Arrangements for protected research time:
During the first year, the ACF will undertake general training in Otolaryngology, which (as per training for non-ACF Otolaryngology trainees in UHSFT) includes up to a day (between half day and full day depending on rota) for research each week; this research time will be spent in the academic Otolaryngology unit in Southampton. It is envisaged that nine months of the second year will be spent in full time research in one of the research divisions in the Faculty of Medicine at University of Southampton to allow more substantial engagement with the research topic to be developed. The 25% salary will be used to employ a locum to cover this nine month period during year two of the programme to allow the period of full-time research. This research period will allow the ACF to gain in-depth research experience and to obtain pilot data in order to apply for a research training fellowship (e.g. to MRC, Wellcome Trust, Surgical Royal Colleges, etc.). The project and training fellowship application will be conducted in conjunction with the fellow's senior academic supervisor. The ACF will then rejoin the Wessex rotation in the third year which (as per training for non-ACF Otolaryngology trainees) includes up to a day (between half day and full day depending on rota) for research each week during which time the ACF will continue to undertake research on their project. During this third year the fellow will continue to obtain pilot data and undertake preparation for research training fellowship applications.

In the event that the trainee wishes to exit early from the training programme, they will revert into the normal job plan of the clinical trainees and re-join the Wessex Otolaryngology rotation.

Research Objectives:

1. To undertake the equivalent of 2 years and 3 months full time specialist training in Otolaryngology in an accredited SpR post in the Wessex Otolaryngology Rotation, and 9 months of full time research in the Academic Otolaryngology Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton.

2. To undertake generic research methods training through a programme run by the Southampton Clinical Academic Training Scheme (SoCATS).

3. To gain relevant training and experience in research design, methods and data interpretation.

4. To expose the trainee to laboratory based research within the Faculty of Medicine

5. To pilot a research project (clinical or laboratory-based) in order to generate preliminary data for development of a proposal for a research training fellowship

6. To submit a competitive application for a clinical research training fellowship to the MRC, Wellcome Trust, Surgical Royal Colleges, Department of Health, etc.

Description of research component of programme (up to 500 words):

It is our objective to exploit the unique combination of clinical and research excellence at the University of Southampton and University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust to train the next generation of academic leaders in Otolaryngology / Head & Neck Surgery. The Academic Clinical Fellow will have the opportunity to spend 9 dedicated months in their second year undertaking cutting edge translational research in the Clinical & Experimental Sciences (CES) Academic Unit at the Faculty of Medicine (FoM), University of Southampton. The FoM provides an outstanding research environment with an excellent track record in translational research and is a world-renowned centre for research into the mechanisms of allergic disease with the Respiratory Allergy Group within this being recognized as world ranking. Southampton is home to the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre – a partnership between the University of Southampton and University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research. As part of the research infrastructure, the Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility (WTCRF) houses a state of the art clinical research facility and is fitted to accommodate paediatric as well as adult research with a dedicated bronchoscopy suite and pulmonary function laboratory. Within CES itself, the Roger Brooke Respiratory Research Laboratory has state of the art cell culture, imaging and cell biology facilities which were expanded in 2006. There are also well-equipped imaging and immunohistochemistry facilities, a FACSaria and laser capture microdissection. Since 1987, CES has held 4 MRC programme grants, 2 NIH and 3 EU grants (including participation in the FP6 Network of Excellence, GA^{2}LEN), and a number of project grants in the field of airways disease. In 2008, Southampton was one of the 3 lead centres selected to submit a full proposal

for the EU FP7 Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) on severe asthma (€23 million).
The academic strategy of the programme is broadly structured into 2 research areas underpinned by extensive inter-disciplinary collaborations between Otolaryngology and the following disciplines: Respiratory, Allergy, Infectious Diseases, Microbiology, Immunology, Ophthalmology, and Dermatopharmacology, thus ensuring several dedicated Clinical Research platforms. The broad research areas are:

1- Neurosciences – An interdisciplinary research collaboration has developed over the past 4 years between the Southampton Upper Airway Research Group, the Carare Research group in Neurosciences and the Mahajan Research Group (Molecular Biophotonics & Imaging) aimed at the development of novel nasal biomarkers for early detection and monitoring of progression in Dementia. The aim is to translate these findings into novel diagnostic markers and drug delivery routes for Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative conditions. There is currently an ENT ACF in the latter stages of a PhD on this project. The appointed ACF will aim to continue and extend this ground-breaking research with the aim of linking in with industry (Storz – endoscope manufacturers) to develop a prototype non-invasive endoscopic optical fibre-based MX-Raman technology for use in the nose to enable early and affordable detection of dementias.

2- Respiratory - The current focus of the Southampton Upper Airway Research Group is to improve understanding of the role of bacteria such as Staphylococcus aureus in driving disease resistance in patients with chronic rhinosinusitis, and using this knowledge to develop novel anti-biofilm therapies targeting these bacteria with the aim of reducing the disease burden and improving patients' quality of life. Two ACFs (Stephen Hayes & Timothy Biggs) have already successfully completed PhDs in this area, including successful funding and academic outputs in high impact journals (Allergy & Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology). We have also recently set up collaborative research stream in adult Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia with the PCD team. We have established a regional one-stop clinical service in Southampton for the whole southwest adult PCD patient cohort which includes Respiratory, ENT, Audiology and Physiotherapy services under one roof. A Rhinology Clinical Fellow has recently started a PhD student investigating the microbiome in adult PCD. Our aim to extend and develop this exciting research stream going forward through an ACF appointment.

Description of clinical component of programme (up to 500 words):

The trainee will join the Wessex Specialist Training Programme in Otolaryngology / Head & Neck Surgery, which is coordinated through the Wessex Deanery. Experience offered will cover the training needs of future consultants in all aspects of this speciality, as well as academic career development. The aim of our clinical training scheme is to provide a friendly atmosphere in which full support and encouragement is provided by a team of dynamic and involved consultant trainers. The Wessex Otolaryngology programme thus provides a very strong clinical training environment closely integrated with a high level academic setting. The programme is based in a major teaching hospital - University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust (UHSFT) - and a number of district general hospitals: Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust (strong links with the Royal Navy and Haslar Hospital), Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust (The Spire Cleft Palate unit, the Regional Burns and Plastic Surgery unit and Regional Spinal injury unit are

all based in Salisbury), and Poole NHS Foundation Trust. The post will ultimately lead to accreditation (CCT) in Otorhinolaryngology / Head & Neck Surgery. The three years will be spent in clinical posts rotating through a combination of the hospital trusts within the Wessex region. These will be allocated according to the trainee's need, although it is envisaged that the majority of the time will be spent in Southampton.

It is envisaged that the fellow will spend the 9 month academic block in year 2 at the Southampton Academic Otolaryngology Unit under the supervision of Professor Rami Salib, Professor of Rhinology and Head of the Southampton Upper Airway Research Group. This will allow the trainee to engage with the research programmes in the department with a view to initiating ideas about the nature of the research project to be developed during the training. A significant part of their clinical training will also be undertaken in the Otolaryngology / Head & Neck Surgery department ay UHSFT. The Southampton Otolaryngology / Head & Neck Surgery department comprises 12 consultants 11 of whom are NHS staff and 1 clinical academic. The department offers the most comprehensive range of Otorhinolaryngological training within the Wessex rotation and provides a solid grounding in evidence-based practice. The clinical training in Southampton will cover all aspects of ORL-HNS, including unrivalled sub-specialist training in Otology (cochlear implantation, neuro-otology and lateral skull base surgery), Rhinology (complex endoscopic sinus surgery, anterior skull base surgery, and rhinoplastics), Paediatric Otolaryngology (neck lumps, laryngeal pathology, airway reconstruction), and Head & Neck Surgery (head & neck oncology, microvascular reconstruction, airway reconstruction) including strong links with Oral & Maxillo-facial surgery. In addition, The Wessex Neurosurgery Centre is based UHSFT. The Institute for Sound and Vibration Research (ISVR) is based on the university site and is the base for the South of England Cochlear Implant Centre. Therefore, there is ample opportunity for the successful candidate to achieve the necessary HST clinical competencies for CCT alongside their academic training.
The clinical programme will include appropriate clinical sessions plus on call and an agreed number of flexible sessions devoted to research, research training and other academic activities. The clinical programme will vary depending on the appropriate subspecialty interest being undertaken.

Specific support provided to trainee

Academic supervision - A minimum of 5 hours per week of direct supervision
Weekly meetings with academic supervisor - to update on his progress, plan further work and provide advice on any other specific scientific issues pertinent to his project. The fellow will also participate in research group meetings. The fellow will have the opportunity of presenting their research progress report at these meetings as well as receive input and feedback from senior members of the group. They will also be encouraged to attend and present their results at relevant national and international conferences which will allow them to build liaisons and establish further collaborations to help progress the research and academic career further.
Clinical mentoring - Alongside the academic supervisor, the fellow will receive regular clinical mentorship from their educational and clinical supervisors.
Research training - University of Southampton Faculty of Medicine has a well-established Postgraduate School (www.som.soton.ac.uk/gradschool). The Postgraduate School has a training programme in both laboratory and clinical research which the fellow will be expected to

attend. The fellow will thus be exposed to an interdisciplinary research environment
Dissemination of research - The annual Faculty postgraduate student conference provides research students with an excellent forum for demonstrating their developing transferable skills, in particular their communication skills. To that effect, the fellow will be expected to present a poster in year 2 and an oral presentation in year 3. To aid this objective, the Medical School provides a conference attendance fund to encourage attendance at important and relevant national and international conferences.
Development of generic skills - In line with the Roberts Joint Skills Statement, a number of activities have been identified which address several key areas highlighted within the Faculty of Medicine. These provide a number of opportunities for early career scientists and academics to develop generic skills within the context of the biosciences. The programme of transferable skills, which is run annually over the course of the year, comprises sessions in: Developing teaching skills, Presenting at conferences, Scientific writing, Communicating research to a wider audience, Introduction to enterprise and entrepreneurship, Preparing your CV, Presenting at conferences, Time management, and Introduction to supervision.

Milestones and timing of achievement of academic and clinical competencies

The following milestones will be applied:

Year 1	
1.	Initial clinical training in the generality of Otolaryngology / Head & Neck Surgery and passing the relevant clinical examinations (MRCS / DOHNS)
2.	Identification of topic of interest for research project and initial literature review.
3.	Identification of research questions to be addressed in pilot study.
4.	Identification of specific learning needs for the project and appropriate courses.
5.	Completion and submission of ethics application and NHS Research & Development proposals for pilot project by the end of the year
Year 2	
1.	Continuing clinical training in general Otolaryngology / Head & Neck Surgery with the relevant competency based assessments (DOPS and miniCEX) and the knowledge-based assessments
2.	The Southampton Faculty of Medicine runs a generic introductory postgraduate training course for research students providing training in basic science and research methods. The student will be expected to attend this.
3.	Attendance at relevant internal and external training courses.
4.	Intensive laboratory and/or clinical data collection for pilot study over 9 month period.
Year 3	

1.	Continuing clinical training in appropriate accredited posts within Wessex Deanery. Completion of laboratory or clinical data collection and writing up of pilot research project with ultimate aim of publication in a high impact scientific/specialty journal. National and international presentation of results.
2.	Submission of Clinical Training Fellowship application to external funding agencies (MRC / Wellcome / Royal College of Surgeons) with aim of undertaking of formal postgraduate research degree (MD / PhD) and subsequent application for Clinical Lecturer post.

How post links in to the NIHR approved Research Training Programme at your locality:

It is expected that by the end of the 3 years the trainee will have been successful in obtaining a competitive clinical research fellowship that allows them to pursue a PhD in their Otolaryngological subspecialty area of choice. At the end of the ACF and clinical research fellowship, we expect the trainee to move on to a Clinical Academic Lectureship position to continue their clinical and academic training with the long term aim of securing a Clinical Senior Lectureship position on the path to becoming a full blown clinical academic. In the event of failure to obtain a clinical research fellowship funding for the full-time three year research period culminating in a PhD, the research fellow could return to the Otolaryngology specialist training programme within the Wessex rotation.

Trainee centredness:

The training will be centred on the trainee's own needs, identified early during the first year, and there will be dedicated supervision during the post. The fellowship will be tailored towards achievement of successful external funding and development of an academic clinical career.

Quality assurance of the programme:

The research methods training will be provided through the established Postgraduate School/Clinical Academic Training Scheme at the University of Southampton Medical School. The academic supervisors have completed the postgraduate research supervision training provided by the University. There already exists a unique combination of clinical and research excellence at the University of Southampton and University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust to train the next generation of academic leaders in Otolaryngology. There is currently one clinical research fellow and an ACF in Otolaryngology who are undertaking PhDs in the proposed research areas of nasal biomarkers in dementia, and microbiome characterisation in adult PCD which the ACF will complement.

The Wessex Specialist Training Programme in Otolaryngology has been successfully training surgical trainees for over 25 years. It incorporates all of the acute NHS Trusts within the region. It is nationally renowned as being a well supervised and innovative training programme. The University of Southampton has long tradition in providing research training for a succession of trainees and clinical academics. In the past many of these trainees have undertaken DM programs, but more recently a higher proportion are undertaking PhDs.

Mentoring Arrangements:
Mentorship will be provided by the academic and clinical supervisors to the fellow. This will be co-ordinated by Prof. Rami Salib (academic supervisor). Further mentorship and supervision can be undertaken through the normal governance arrangements for postgraduate research at the University of Southampton's Faculty of Medicine. This will include mentorship through supervision of the emerging PhD programme and of research fellowship applications to major funding agencies.
Academic Lead (University) for the IAT Programme:
Professor Elaine Dennison Professor of Musculoskeletal Epidemiology Honorary Consultant Rheumatologist University of Southampton emd@mrc.soton.ac.uk
Academic Supervisor (University) Details:
Professor Rami Salib Professor of Rhinology Consultant ENT Surgeon Head of Upper Airway Research Group ENT Academic Lead rjs4@soton.ac.uk
Education Supervisor (Trust) Details:
This will be confirmed once the appointee is in post
Clinical Supervisor(s) Details:
This will be confirmed once the appointee is in post
Deanery Programme Training Director Details:
Mr Kwamena Amonoo-Kuofi Consultant ENT Surgeon University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust Kwamena.Amonoo-kuofi@uhs.nhs.uk
Deanery Programme Manager Details:
Mrs Sue Ksous sue.ksous@nhs.net

Confirmation that ACF posts attract an NTN(a):
This post will attract a NTN (A)